

From: Jeff Sepeta
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: failure of the justice system

As a computer consultant with 10 years experience in the industry, I find that the settlement you've offered to Microsoft threatens to instill even more animosity between the American public and our ailing legal system -- and this, within months of the Supreme Court selecting our President. After years and millions of dollars spent on this case, you've basically walked away from any kind of credibility. Why? Was Bill Gates' donations to the Bush candidacy an influencing factor?

Microsoft has been stealing technology from their competitors for over 15 years, but only gets a hand-slap with this, the most important intellectual property case ever. Warnings to Microsoft have worked in the past, and there is little reason to think that it will work now. The only way to send a message to Microsoft that wielding their monopoly power over the industry is wrong is to come up with a stronger settlement -- perhaps a 5 billion dollar judgement to be divided up amongst their competitors? Actually, the suggested breakup made the most sense.

Please note that Windows 98 cost \$100 new. Windows XP costs \$200. Now that they've knocked their competitors to the ropes, they can charge whatever they want for products. This is a sign that they have won, and the Justice Department has abandoned their role as protectors of democracy.

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